

Message Text

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14

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 INT-08

COME-00 PC-15 USIA-15 DODE-00 AGR-20 HEW-08 SCI-06

RSR-01 RSC-01 /201 W

----- 019623

R 211300Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1441

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

ECMISSION BRUSSELS 062

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CDC ATLANTA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NOUAKCHOTT 739

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID MR

SUBJECT: DROUGHT RELIEF

REFS: (A) STATE 156811; (B) NOUAKCHOTT 685; (C) NOUAKCHOTT 691;
(D) NOUAKCHOTT 690; (E) NOUAKCHOTT 723; (F) NOUAKCHOTT 732;
(G) NOUAKCHOTT 601; (H) ALGIERS 1758; (I) NOUAKCHOTT 714.

PARIY FOR WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT'S COORDINATOR FOR SAHELIAN DROUGHT.

SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED REF A EMBASSY PREPARED MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
BASED ON DATA PROVIDED BY CDC DR. GREENE AND DISCUSSIONS WITH
MINHEALTH, OVERALL GIRM DROUGHT COORDINATOR, FOR USG OR OTHER
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DONOR ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN SWIFTLY TO BRING PRACTIBLE

EMERGENCY RELIEF. ASIDE FROM GIRM REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
EMERGENCY FOOD AID (REF B), GIRM IN NEED OF VITAMINS, FATS
AND MEDICATION.

1. VITAMINS: GIVEN THE HIGH PREVALENCE OF ADVANCED VITAMIN DEFICIENCY AMONG NOMADS RECEIVING AN UNBALANCED DIET, QUESTION OF LARGE SCALE VITAMIN DISTRIBUTION RAISED WITH CDC (REF C) AND MINHEALTH. BOTH CONCUR SUCH DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE VALUABLE. ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL, CURRENT STOCKS OF VITAMINS NOT SUITED FOR LARGE SCALE DISTRIBUTION IN THAT MOST ARE INDIVIDUAL VITAMINS RATHER THAN MULTIVITAMINS. VITAMINS IN STOCK OR ON ORDER:
MULTIVITAMINS - 720,000 TABLETS; VITAMIN A - 360,000 TABLETS;
VITAMIN B1 - 1,000,000 TABLETS AND 1,000,000 INJECTABLE DOSES;
VITAMIN C - 1,000,000 TABLETS AND 253,000 INJECTABLE DOSES.
FOR LOGISTIC REASONS, MULTIVITAMINS ARE THE PREPARATION NEEDED FOR DISTRIBUTION. MINHEALTH HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS:
A) THE STOCK OF RESERVE MULTIVITAMINS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED,
WHILE THE INDIVIDUAL VITAMIN PREPARATIONS WILL BE USED FOR TREATMENT OF PATIENTS SEEN AT DISPENSARIES.

B) SUPPLIES OF VITAMINS WILL BE GIVEN TO MOBILE VACCINATION TEAMS FOR DISTRIBUTION DURING VACCINATION PROGRAM WHERE VITAMINS ARE CLEARLY NEEDED.

C) IF ENOUGH MULTIVITAMINS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE GIRM WILL COMMENCE LARGE SCALE VITAMIN DISTRIBUTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

2. MULTIVITAMIN DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOOD DISTRIBUTION NECESSARY DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNABLE TO REACH ESTABLISHED DISPENSARIES (WHERE VITAMINS ARE AVAILABLE) AND SINCE DIETARY IMBALANCE AND THUS PROTEIN DEPRIVATION IS CERTAIN TO CONTINUE. THE SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF IS WIDELY DISPERSED, EFFICIENT AND CAN BE USED FOR VITAMIN DISTRIBUTION. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND A MULTIVITAMIN DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR THE ENTIRE MAURITANIAN POPULATION. RATHER, IT WOULD BE USED SELECTIVELY IN THOSE REGIONS WHERE OUR NUTRITIONAL SURVEY HAS REVEALED HIGH RATES OF ADVANCED VITAMIN DEFICIENCY, PRIMARILY IN THE 5TH AND 6TH REGIONS (REF D AND E). USING AN ESTIMATE OF 250,000
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RECIPIENTS PER MONTH OVER THE NEXT 4 MONTHS, IF ONE ATTEMPTED TO SUPPLY ONE WEEK'S TREATMENT TO EACH PERSON (ONE MULTIVITAMIN TABLET PER DAY FOR 7 DAYS) EACH MONTH, AN ESTIMATED 7,500,000 TABLETS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

3. FAT DEFICIENCY--IT IS READILY APPARENT FROM THE NATURE OF CURRENT RELIEF SUPPLIED (CEREALS AND POWDERED SKIM MILK) THAT THE RELIEF DIET IS LACKING IN REQUIRED FAT AND LIPID

CONTENT. ON THE BASIS OF 20 GRAMS OF FAT PER PERSON PER DAY (FAO NUTRITIONISTS RECOMMENDATION REF F), 600 METRIC TONS OF BUTTER OIL OR SOME EQUIVALENT WOULD BE REQUIRED PER MONTH TO MEET CURRENT NEEDS. EMB REPORTED GIRM REQUEST FOR BUTTER OIL (REF G) BUT NO STOCKS AVAHLABLE IN US (REF H). THIS FIGURE COULD BE REDUCED GIVEN PRAGMATIC LIMITATIONS, BY GIVING LESS THAN AN IDEAL QUANTITY TO A SELECTED SUB-GROUP WITHIN THE POPULATION AS PROPOSED WITH RESPECT TO VITAMIN DISTRIBUTION. IF ONE ATTEMPTED TO SUPPLY ONLY THAT 25 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION MOST SEVERELY MALNOURISHED WITH HALF OF RECOMMENDED DAILY FAT REQUIREMENT, THE MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE REDUCED TO 60-70 METRIC TONS. GERMANY HAS JUST PLEDGED 53 TONS BUTTER OIL FOR DELIVERY IN NEAR FUTURE (REF I).

4. PROTEIN SUPPLEMENT--IF GIRM WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE INTENDED 15 KG OF GRAIN PER PERSON PER MONTH, THE RELIEF DIET WOULD CONTAIN ADEQUATE PROTEIN TO MEET NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (ALTHOUGH MUCH LESS PROTEIN THAN THIS MEAT AND MILK EATING POPULATION NORMALLY CONSUMES). DUE TO SHORTAGES THIS LEVEL OF DISTRIBUTION HAS NEVER BEEN ATTAINED AND IN MANY LOCATIONS IN THE INTERIOR IS CLOSER TO 5 KG PER PERSON PER MONTH. THUS, THE RELIEF DIET IS PROTEIN DEFICIENT AS INDICATED BY HIGH RATES OF MARASMUS AMONG CHILDREN EXAMINED. RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PROVISION OF SOME QUANTITY OF PROTEIN SUPPLEMENT (CSM, FOR EXAMPLE) WHICH WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE DISPENSARIES AND MOTHER AND CHILD CARE CENTERS.

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MRN: 1973NOUAKC000739 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

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Draft Date: 21 AUG 1973
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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